

DOMINICK COGNATA

REFLECTION OVER SPRING PRACTICUM 2016

LOOKING BACK

- When I reread my essential belief statement I came to some realizations. For one, going into this class I had no idea how many different types of students were actually out there. I had no idea how many different intelligences there were or the four different learning styles that were out there! As I learned about the multiple intelligences and learning styles I started to notice the people around me that possessed these varying qualities. I noticed many different multiple intelligences within my own family members. I did not expect to learn about the different intelligences going into this class. Something else that did not even occur to me when writing my Essential Belief Statement was that I would learn how to write lesson plans. Not just any lesson plan, but the most detailed lesson plans that a teaching program can offer. I did not realize how much thinking would go into these lessons. In my EBS I had different ideas of what I would achieve in this course, for example, organization. I have become more organized since taking this course and I have learned a lot about dealing with different types of students.

WHAT'S CHANGED?

- Since taking this course everything has changed for me as an aspiring educator. I know realize there is so much more to teaching than what I wrote. I only scratched the surface in my EBS. Being in this course has taught more than I could have imagined and has made me rethink the education system as a whole. I now have a better grasp of what it is like to be a teacher. The transition I made from student to teacher was crazy and more real than I ever I thought it would be. The first moment I heard a student say "Mr. C" I had a feeling that I will never forget. A feeling of happiness, excitement and recognition. I recognized that I was not only responsible for myself, but for my students as well.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- The big selling point to me with backward design is that it allows the teacher to set goals for the students. It allows students to know where they are going in the course. Backward design lets students know what is expected of them, which in my opinion every student should have the right to know. Teachers need to let their students know where the lessons are going to take them.
- Differentiated instruction is vital for students. Every student is different and therefore learns through different means. It will be critical for me to incorporate differentiated instruction in my classroom because as an educator it is my responsibility to teach these students the material. In terms of pedagogies I will need to know my content and still be able to connect with students. I will find a balance between the amount of content knowledge I have and how I express it to students.
- As an educator I believe that every student can retain information and express it in their own way. That's why when I check for student understanding of the content knowledge they will be able to show what they know in their own way. They will be given the option to do a creative project in which they demonstrate to me their understanding of the content knowledge. For example, if a student is a kinesthetic learner they can act out a skit in front of the class.

CONCLUSION

- Broken

